

Museum Ethics Online

AAD 410/510

Arts & Administration, University of Oregon

Spring, 2009

David Turner

dtturner@uoregon.edu

Textbooks:

Museum Ethics, edited by Gary Edson, Routledge, NY, 1997

Ethics and the Visual Arts, edited by Elaine A. King and Gail Levin, Allworth Press, NY, 2006

Displays of Power: Controversy in the American Museum from the Enola Gay to Sensation, Steven Dubin, New York University Press, NY, 1999

Week 1: What are Ethics and Why?

- applying ethics to museums and cultural non-profits.
- the rights of all voices
- Codes of Ethics

Readings:

Edson, "Ethics and the Profession," pp. 18-35.

Edson, "Ethics and Museums," pp. 36-53.

King & Levin, "So, What's the Price? – The PM Principle – Power, People, and Money," Elaine King, pp. 1-22.

King & Levin, "The Unethical Art Museum," by Alan Wallach, pp 23 – 36.

Week 2: Boards, Governance, and Leadership

Readings:

Edson, "Ethics and Duty," pp. 54-72.

Skramstad, Harold and Susan, "Trusteeship" and "Handling Difficult Board Issues," *A Handbook for Museum Trustees* (handout accessible on Blackboard)

Week 3: Decision Making in Legal and Ethical Contexts

- the Work Environment.
- use of imagery in changing research environment

Readings:

King & Levin, "Law, Ethics, and the Visual Arts: The Many Facets of Conflict of Interest," Barbara T. Hoffman, pp. 243-261.

Week 4: Censorship: Whose Community Standards?

Readings:

King & Levin, "Art and Censorship," Richard Serra, pp. 185-194.

Dubin, "Afterword: When Elephants Fight: How *Sensation* Became Sensational," pp. 246-276.

Week 5: Exhibitions: Delivering the Right Message

Readings:

King & Levin, "Ethical Issues and Curatorial Practices," Joan Marter, pp. 155-158.

King & Levin, "Fair Use and the Visual Arts: Please Leave Some Room For Robin Hood," Stephen E. Weil, pp. 159-174.

Dubin, "Crossing 125th Street: *Harlem on my Mind* Revisited," pp. 18-63.

Dubin, "A Matter of Perspective: Revisionist History and *The West as America*," pp. 152-185.

Dubin, "Battle Royal: The Final Mission of the *Enola Gay*," pp. 186-226.

Edson, "Ethics and Exhibitions," pp. 216-224.

Edson, "Ethics and Public Programs," pp. 225-236.

Week 6: Managing Collections: Where Are They from and Where Did They Go?

Readings:

King & Levin, "Museum Collecting, Clear Title, and the Ethics of Power," Tom L. Freudenheim, pp. 49 - 64.

King & Levin, "Politics, Ethics and Memory, Nazi Art Plunder and Holocaust Art Restitution," by Ori Z. Soltes, pp. 65 - 88.

King & Levin, "Calling for a Code of Ethics in the Indian Art Market," Elizabeth A. Sackler, pp. 89-104.

King & Levin, "The Preservation of Iraqi Modern Heritage in the Aftermath of the U.S. Invasion of 2003," Nada Shabout, pp. 105 - 120.

King & Levin, "Art Enters the Biotechnology Debate: Questions of Ethics," Ellen K. Levy, pp. 199-216.

Edson, "Museum Ethics and Collecting Principles," Paul Perrot, pp. 187-195.

Week 7: Authenticity in Works of Art and History

Readings:

King & Levin, "Ethics in Appraising Fine Art," Alex Rosenberg, pp. 121-124.

King & Levin, "Artists' Estates: When Trust is Betrayed," Gail Levin, pp. 125-142.

King & Levin, "The Moral Case for Restoring Artworks," James Janowski, pp 143-154.

Week 8: Conflicts of Interest: Putting the Organization First

Readings:

Edson, "Ethics and the Museum Community," pp. 90-106.

Week 9: Ethics in the Visual Arts Community

Week 10: Review and Discussion of Participants' Final Projects